

5      Abstract of the Invention

          The present invention relates to recombinant expression vectors which express  
segments of deoxyribonucleic acid that encode recombinant HIV and HCV antigens.  
These recombinant expression vectors are transformed into host cells and used in a  
method to express large quantities of these antigens. The invention also provides  
10      compositions containing certain of the isolated antigens, diagnostic systems  
          containing these antigens and methods of assaying body fluids to detect the presence  
          of antibodies against the antigens of the invention.